

OPINION 1627

Saissetia* Déplanche, 1859 (Insecta, Homoptera): *Lecanium coffeae* Walker, 1852 designated as the type species*Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary powers it is hereby ruled that:
 - (a) the specific name *coffeae* Déplanche, 1859, as published in the binomen *Saissetia coffeae*, is suppressed for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
 - (b) all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Saissetia*, Déplanche, 1859 are hereby set aside and *Lecanium coffeae* Walker, 1852 is designated as the type species.
- (2) The name *Saissetia* Déplanche, 1859 (gender: feminine), type species by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(b) above *Lecanium coffeae* Walker, 1852, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *coffeae* Walker, 1852, as published in the binomen *Lecanium coffeae* (specific name of the type species of *Saissetia* Déplanche, 1859), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name *coffeae* Déplanche, 1859, as published in the binomen *Saissetia coffeae* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2677

An application for the designation of *Lecanium coffeae* Walker, 1852 as the type species of *Saissetia* Déplanche, 1859 was received from Dr Yair Ben-Dov (*Agricultural Research Organisation, Bet Dagan, Israel*) on 3 August 1988. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 46: 114–118 (June 1989). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. Comments in support from Dr Giovanni De Lotto (*Via E. Fermi, Siderno, Italy*) and from Dr Chris Hodgson (*Wye College, University of London, Kent, U.K.*) were published in BZN 47: 47–48 (March 1990). A further comment in support was received from Dr D.J. Williams (*c/o The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*).

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1990 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 46: 116–117. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1990 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 23: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Mroczkowski, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 2: Dupuis and Lehtinen.

No votes were received from Halvorsen and Trjapitzin.

Thompson abstained, commenting: 'Déplanche published his description in a 'weekly newspaper' (para. 1 of the application); the name *Saissetia* is not available as such works do not meet the criteria of Article 8 of the Code'. [The *Messenger de Tahiti* was an official gazette as well as a 'newspaper'. The next publication of *Saissetia*

was Déplanche in Eudes-Deslongchamps, 1859 (cf. BZN 46: 115, para. 4)]. Dupuis noted: 'Il fallait supprimer à la fois l'épithète spécifique et le nom générique de PSEUDOCOCCIDAE indéterminable de Déplanche et attribuer *Saissetia* (fam. COCCIDAE) à Cockerell (1899)'. Lehtinen considered that the stabilization of an obscurely published name in the wrong family could not be accepted; no information had been given about the possible existence of the suggested type species in the original type locality. If the name *Saissetia* were conserved, authorship should be attributed to an entomologist who provided a description of the genus within the COCCIDAE, but it would be better to reject the name. Although voting for the proposals, Heppell commented: 'I am in general agreement with the proposals to interpret the generic name *Saissetia* in the sense of a coccid rather than a pseudococcid homopteran. My objection to the means by which this desired end is to be achieved is that it seems to me totally inappropriate to maintain the attribution of the name (in the sense of the coccid genus) to Déplanche, 1859, now it has been conclusively shown that that reference concerns only a pseudo-coccid genus of the same name. Déplanche's genus, being monotypic, is co-extensive with his nominal species *S. coffeae*, the name of which is being suppressed. There is no other basis on which to reinterpret Déplanche's genus. I believe we should have suppressed *Saissetia* Déplanche in order to recognise subsequent usage of that name in the sense of the coccid *Lecanium coffeae* Walker'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

coffeae, *Lecanium*, Walker, 1852, *List of the specimens of homopterous insects in the collection of the British Museum*, part 4, p. 1079.

coffeae, *Saissetia*, Déplanche, 1859, *Messenger de Tahiti, Papeete*, 8(no. 9): 7.

Saissetia Déplanche, 1859, *Messenger de Tahiti, Papeete*, 8(no. 9): 7.